

CROSS

T H E M A G A Z I N E

Spring 2000

OUCH!

When good athletes
do bad things

Southern Theatre
EXPOSED !

WHY WEIGHT?

A look at today's
diet & fitness fads

ACTION!

Southern students
dabble in the
movie biz

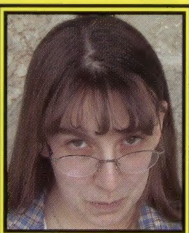
GO CYBER-

Explore a variety
of student Web sites



CROSSROADS

T H E S T A F F



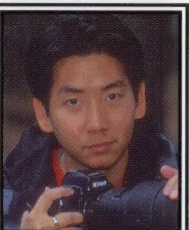
"Stop searching aimlessly...look up."

GINNY ANDREWS
editor-in-chief



"You'll never know how sturdy the boat is unless you rock it a little."

ERIN SELLERS
managing editor



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
photography



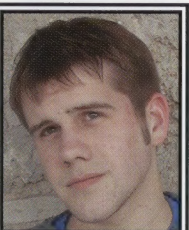
A true 'designing woman'

TARA BERRY-Rea
graphics



"I told you so!"

SARAH LANKFORD
staff writer / photographer



CAMERON BOHANNON
staff writer

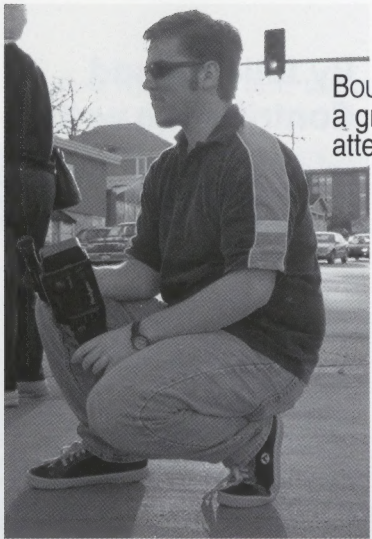
SPECIAL THANKS

- Rhonda Clark
- Chris Roberts
- Andre Smith
- Julie Riguad
- Seth Wolfshorndl
- Melanie Cox
- Dale Benfield, Jr.
- Genie Undermehr

and to our adviser
Jean Cambell

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T H E S T O R I E S

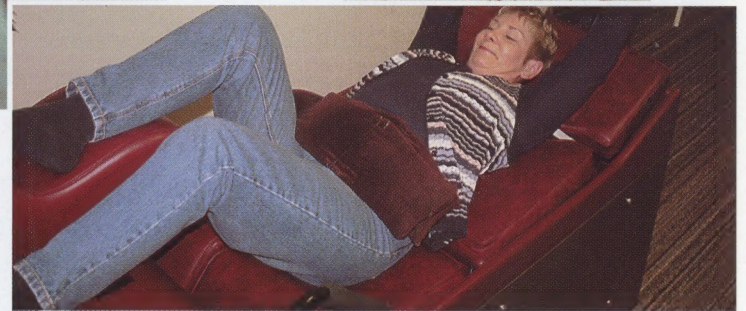


BOUND FOR HOLLYWOOD:
a group of students
attempt movie-making.
PAGE 24

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One student's drive
has helped secure two
degrees, a house,
a marriage and a future
career . . . all at 21!
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**SETS, SCENERY,
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the task of being a
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An exposé of various
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The lengths to which sports players go to 'get the goal'

University Life: An Old World Perspective

By Julie Rigaud
Contributing writer

Imagine you quit your work tomorrow and decide to fully enjoy life as a student...what would happen?

The biggest problem is likely to be financial. As a student you have to pay your tuition and although MSSC is cheaper than other colleges, you still have to disburse a considerable amount of money to attend classes at college.

The problem would be even tougher to solve if you are at the same time a student, a mother or father. In that case, you would have to find a way to finance your studies and support your family.

Finally, we can question the expression "a student life." What would you do in Joplin during the time when you are usually at work? Joplin is not a town which revolves around its students. As it is ostracized from Joplin downtown, many students prefer leaving right after class and most of them do not get involved in campus activities. It is no wonder then that all clubs or organizations complain about taking initiatives to have interesting and exciting events, where no one ever shows up.

Imagine now that the government pays for your studies and helps you with rent. What kind of difference would that make? Before coming to Joplin, this was my life.

I studied two years in a French University and one year in England. Now that I have spent some months at Missouri Southern, I cannot help but notice the differences between being a student in the New World and being a student in the Old World. My intention is not to establish a Manichean portrait of both educational systems, but rather to share my experience.

Most of the students in France receive considerable financial help from the government and therefore they do not have to work to finance their studies. It is both extremely common and well-accepted by society. This difference of mentality creates two lifestyles. In France, when classes end the day is not finished and instead of going to work or back home, people are usually involved in a social activity. This could go from being a member in a club to hanging out with friends.

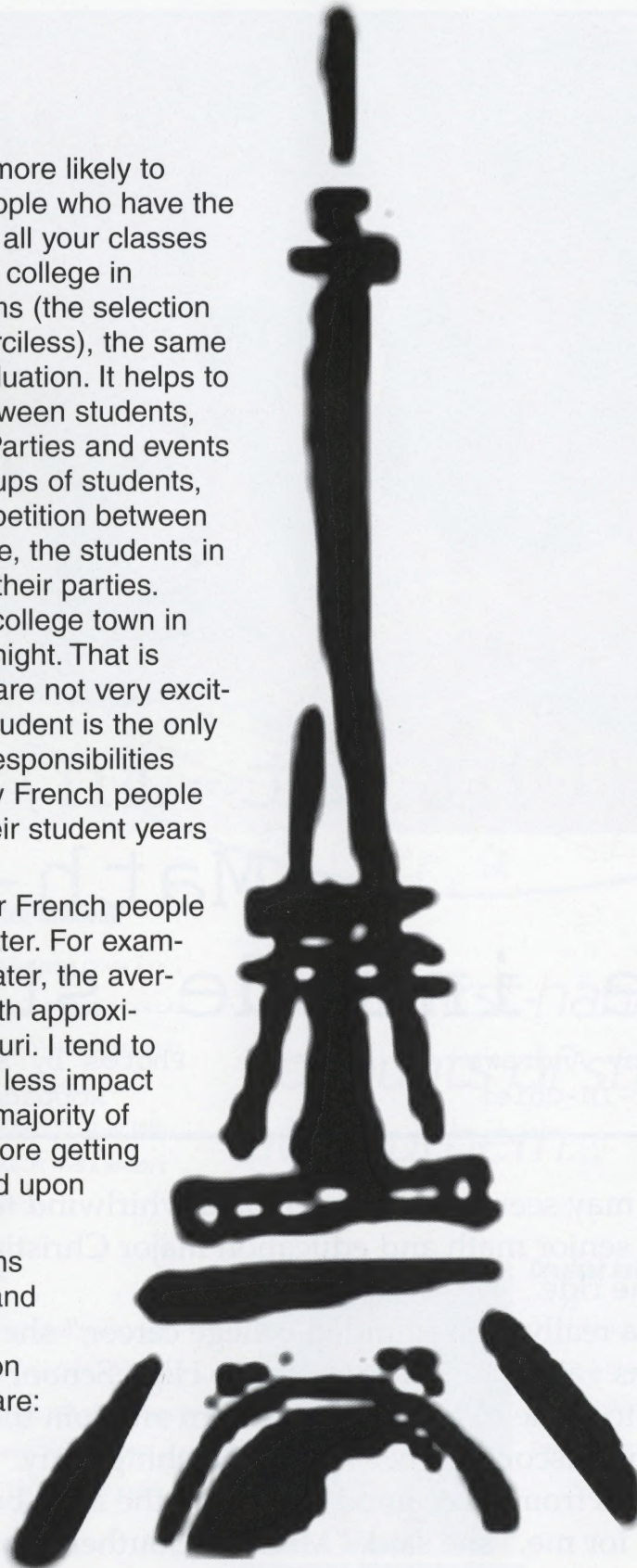
In France, if you want to graduate you must take four years of specific classes, unlike American universities where you have some variety. The advantage of the



French system is that you are more likely to make close friends with the people who have the same major because you have all your classes together. After your first year at college in France, if you pass all the exams (the selection to enter the second year is merciless), the same students are together until graduation. It helps to create a sense of solidarity between students, and builds strong friendships. Parties and events will be organized all by the groups of students, thus stimulating a friendly competition between subjects of studies. For example, the students in medical school are famous for their parties. Every Thursday night in every college town in France, you will find a student night. That is probably why French students are not very excited about graduating: being a student is the only time where you are free from responsibilities and have so much fun! Ask any French people and they will all tell you that their student years were the best years.

It also seems that the longer French people can avoid responsibility, the better. For example, people get married much later, the average age being 27 compared with approximately 20 in the State of Missouri. I tend to think that religious beliefs have less impact on students in France and the majority of young couples live together before getting married because it is not looked upon like it may be here.

My belief is that both systems have to learn from each other and the best way to do so is to go abroad and see what is going on elsewhere. To quote Shakespeare: "All the world's a stage." ○





(Christ-in)
(Math-is)
The inside story

By Ginny Andrews
Editor-In-Chief

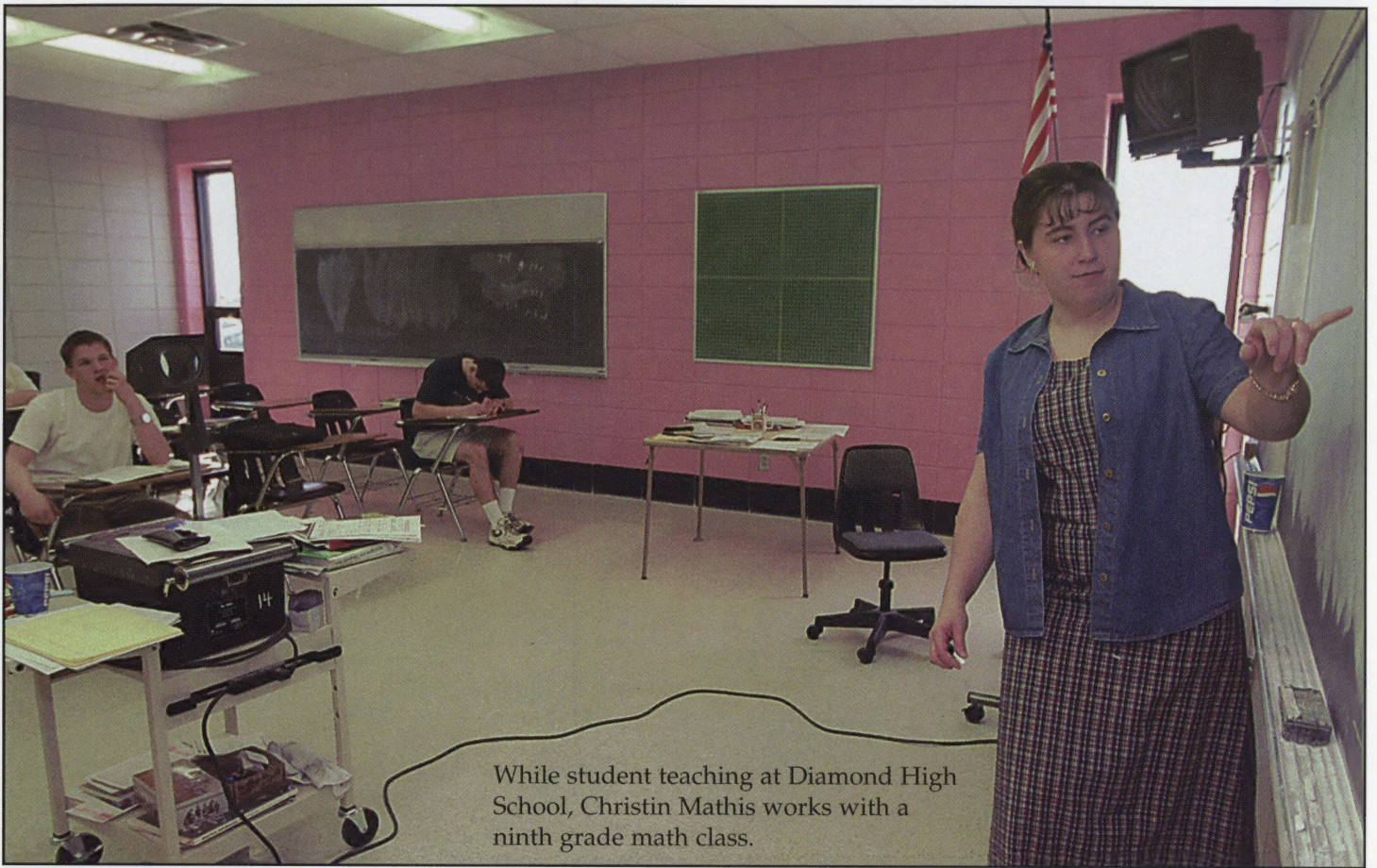
Photos by Sarah Lankford &
Noppadol Paothong

To many it may seem she has been on a whirlwind tour through her college years, but senior math and education major Christin Mathis says she has enjoyed the ride.

"I feel I've had a really well-rounded college career," she said.

Mathis, who was valedictorian of Carthage High School in 1997, says one of the reasons she decided to come to Missouri Southern and join the Honor's Program was because they didn't discourage her idea of finishing early.

"I had good offers from three good schools in the area, but one-by-one I was pretty sure they weren't for me," she said. "Missouri Southern had so much to offer: I was



While student teaching at Diamond High School, Christin Mathis works with a ninth grade math class.

able to go to England and the honors program and scholarship were very attractive.

"Accelerated graduation was something I looked at, and I wasn't sure when I entered school that I wanted to do that, but Missouri Southern was the only one that said they would work with me."

Dr. Patricia Kluthe, honors program director, says it was the challenge that kept Mathis going for the three-year goal.

"I think one of the main reasons Christin committed to a three-year baccalaureate is because it looks impossible," she said.

Kluthe worked with Mathis on constructing a plan to meet her goals, and says it is a uniqueness in Christin as a student that made it possible to meet the goals.

"She's one of those bright, capable, *and* hardworking students," she said. "She is the essence of an overachiever."

Mary Elick, associate professor of mathematics,

says she had her doubts about Mathis' plans.

"I wasn't sure that it was such a wonderful thing to do," she said. "I think part of an education is the journey, not just getting there.

"But Christin has done very well, so, I can't fault her on it."

Elick says Mathis' talent in mathematics has helped her pursuit.

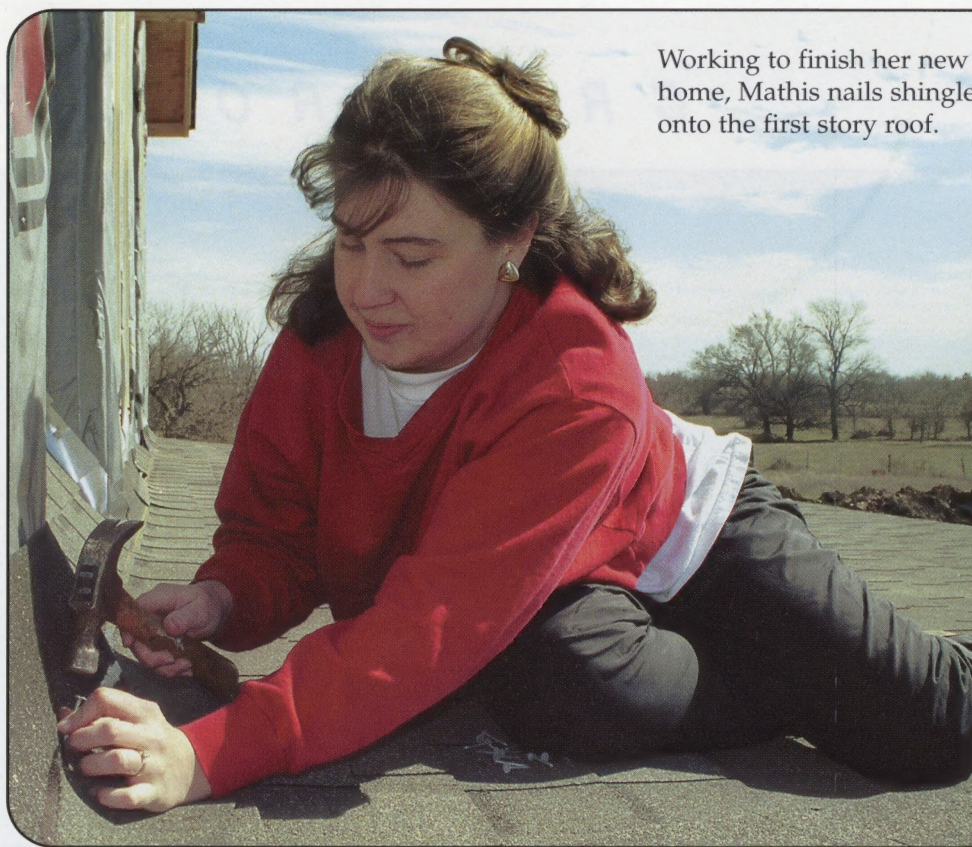
"She has good problem-solving skills, which includes creativity," she said. "She can come with ways to think about problems that not everyone does."

Elick also says she thinks Mathis shows a great deal of character inside the classroom and out.

"One of the thing I'm so aware of with her is that she is confident with who she is," Elick said. "She has a well-developed sense of values and is a simply wonderful person."

Finishing two majors in three years may make it seem as though Mathis had little time for anything

Working to finish her new home, Mathis nails shingles onto the first story roof.



Vital statistics

Born: February 18, 1978

Graduated: Carthage High School, 1997 (Valedictorian)

Missouri Southern:

- Student Regent 2 years
- Mathematics and Education major
- 136 hours completed in three years
- Member of numerous honor societies
- Officer of two campus organizations

Gettin' Hitched:

May 19, 2000 to Missouri Southern physics graduate Nathan Moss.

besides hitting the books, but in fact, she says her affiliation with several student organizations as well as overseas travel have kept her in the social arena.

"I've really enjoyed the extracurricular stuff I've been involved with," she said. "You can be dedicated and get homework done and still have lots of fun.

"Sure, there have been times I've had to prioritize, but everyone has to do that."

During her first semester at Southern, Mathis ran for and was elected to Student Senate and later was appointed by Gov. Mel Carnahan as the Student Regent for Missouri Southern.

"It has been a real learning experience for me just seeing how the school is run and the concern the Regents have about the school and the students," she said. "They have a real interest in making sure that everything is working together

well, and I appreciate that about them.

"Some of their decisions may not be really popular with the students, but they do put a lot of thought into the decision-making process," Mathis said.

Not surprised by Mathis' appointment to the Regents, Kluthe says Christin fit the bill for the job.

"It had to be somebody who was sensitive to the student voice—and Christin listens," she said.

Mathis' trip to study at Cambridge University in England in the summer of 1999 has been a highlight of Mathis' college career, she said.

"I learned more outside the classroom than inside it — the classes were good— but being immersed in the culture for three weeks was tremendous," she said.

Mathis laughed at thinking about her run-ins with language

differences in England.

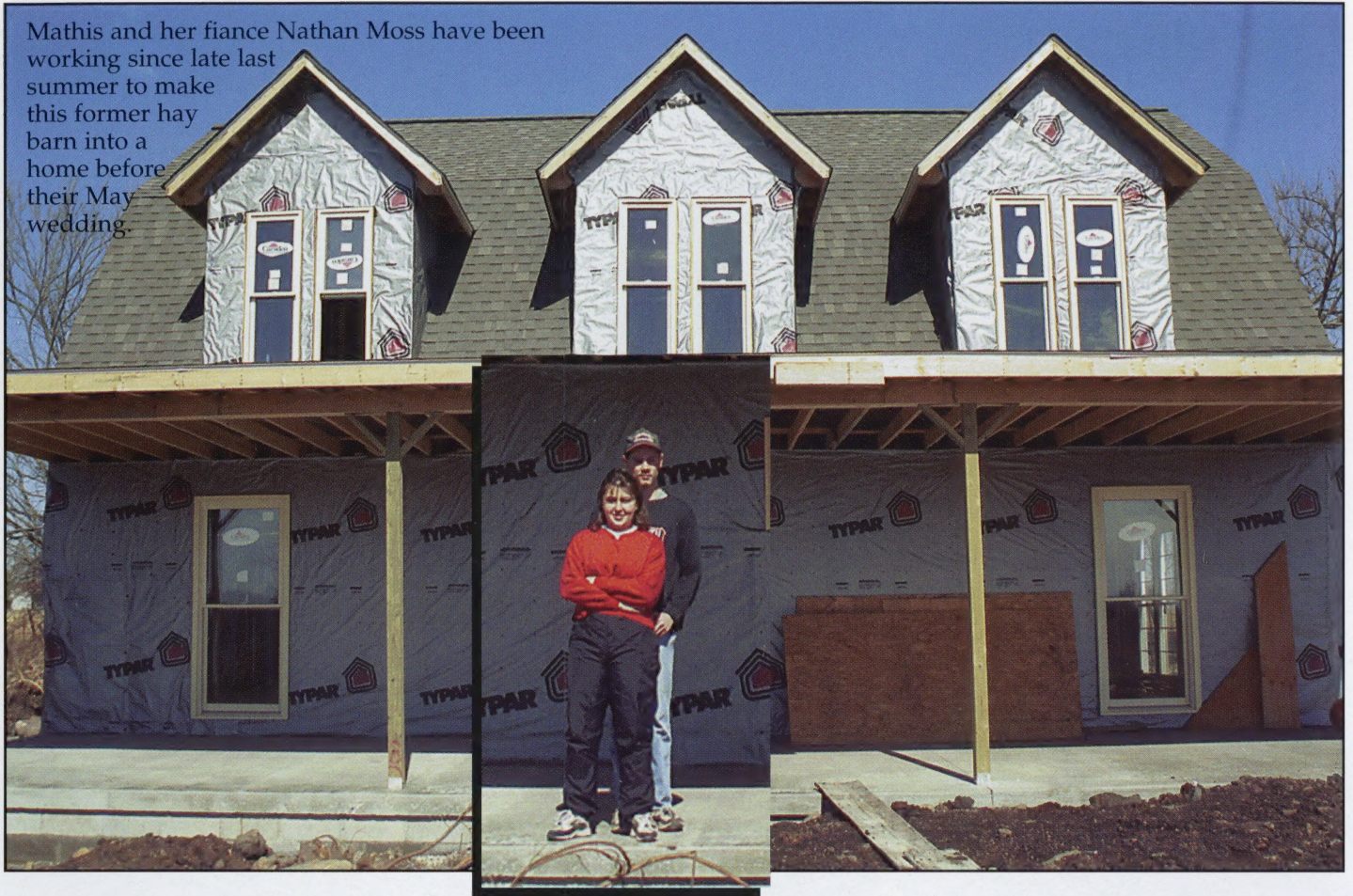
"I learned that the English call ATM's 'cash machines' and cookies 'biscuits.'"

Mathis has also served as vice-president of Koinonia Christian Campus Ministry, and says this is one of the accomplishments in which she takes most pride.

"I've really been excited about the things I've been able to do through Koinonia," she said. "I've enjoyed working with a growing campus ministry and being able to minister to Missouri Southern students and the community."

It was through Koinonia that Mathis met her fiancée, 1998

Mathis and her fiancé Nathan Moss have been working since late last summer to make this former hay barn into a home before their May wedding.



physics graduate Nathan Moss.

"We have been together since November of 1997," she said, then laughed. "We bonded working on the Koinonia Homecoming float when we were both covered in spray foam insulation."

Moss, who was president of Koinonia at the time, is working as an electrical engineer at Eagle Picher, and Mathis says it was Moss's abilities as a leader that first attracted her to him.

"He was very organized and a great organizer of people and that was the first time I really got to see him coordinating something," she said.

"I didn't realize how important that skill would be, because two years later we'd be working on our own house project."

Moss and Mathis are getting married May 19, and will be moving into their "barn" shortly thereafter.

Soon after Moss proposed last June the two began working on housing plans and stumbled upon an old barn they thought had potential.

Far from housing hay and cattle now, the 3,000 square ft. building has been reinvented into a three-bedroom three-bath home on the northwest side of Carthage.

Mathis said Moss' perspective has been invaluable during her stressed times enroute to graduation.

"He's been a tremendous support to me because in my race through things I've needed someone to show me there's more to life than 10 papers to write or 100 math questions," she said. ○

"...two years later we'd be working on our own house project."

— Christin Mathis

**Missouri
Southern's Doug
Monroe lost his
family to a Drunk
Driving accident...**

Now he's fighting back

**Story and photos by
Sarah Lankford**

For many high school students, graduation is a time for celebration. Graduation should be a day spent with close family members. It should be a day including the two people who taught you life's most precious values. It should be a day filled with joyful memories. For Doug Monroe, graduation was just another day.

It was 9:30 on an April night in 1983 and Doug Monroe was a senior at Carl Junction high School. He was just one month from graduating when life hit him hard. His mother, father, two sisters, aunt, and uncle would be arriving home from Liberal, Missouri.

Shown here in a family picture are Monroe and his brother and sister along with their mother, father, and sister who were killed.



With no clue that such a simple decision would change his life forever, Monroe decided to stay home with his sick brother.

While channel surfing, Monroe watched a 9:30 news update and learned that a wreck had occurred on Hwy 43 just north of Joplin. This was the route his family would be taking home.

"I kind of had that feeling," Monroe said. A half-hour went by and they still were not home.

"My girlfriend's (at the time) mother came to give us the news that it was my uncle's vehicle that was in the accident," he said.

"We didn't know where to go. Four victims were at St. John's, but the others were at Freeman Hospital. Upon arrival at Freeman a highway patrolman informed

Monroe that his mother and father had both died.

Monroe says his first emotion was tremendous shock and loss. He didn't think this could be happening.

"I was suppose to make that trip, my mother took my place," Monroe said.

His mother was from a family of 17 children.

"I had to figure out what family member to call," he said.

He picked an aunt in Iowa. All he could tell her was that she had to get to Joplin. She repeatedly asked why.

"Finally I blurted it out that Mom and Dad had been killed," Monroe said. "All I heard was a scream and the phone hit the floor."

Monroe's uncle got on the phone and said he would inform the rest of the family in Iowa and get to Joplin as soon as possible.

Two intoxicated men headed north on Hwy 43 crossed the centerline striking Monroe's family. They too were killed in the accident.

Surviving in his immediate family is his brother, whom Monroe stayed home with, and his sister, (11 at the time) the only survivor of the accident. She walked out of the accident with a bruised back and nose.

Doug soon became the man of the house.

"Overnight I became the father figure and the adult in the family, I wasn't ready for that," he said. "I kept thinking; I'm not even out of

C R O S S R O A D S

high school yet, this can't be happening. Two days before I was just a kid, two days later I'm making adult decisions."

His normal life was over. In just one month he would be graduating from high school.

"It (graduation) was just another day for me," he said. Although much of Monroe's family was there, it just was not the same without his mother and father.

"Everyone else had his or her parents there. They (his parents) were there for 18 years; they should have been able to see me walk across that stage."

Monroe lived with his grandparents for a year then decided it was time to move out.

"It was kind of like here's life thrown at you, now you deal with it," he said.

Monroe had no counseling about this tragedy for years.

"I pretty much put my faith in God," he said. "He guided me through it."

Monroe took his grandmother's place one Saturday afternoon in 1996 on the victim impact panel for MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Offenders who have broken the law by drinking and driving are required to attend the victim impact panel. First the offenders are shown videos on drunk driving, then the victims tell their personal stories on how drunk drivers have affected their lives.

"I never really got in depth into the story until then," he said. "Once I started talking, I realized there was some stuff I had to get out."

Today, Monroe has played a considerable role in MADD. He averages 60-70 hours a month working on keeping intoxicated drivers off the streets.

"He puts in more time than he can probably afford," says Paula Kanyo, executive director for MADD Missouri. "Doug puts in literally hours and hours."

Monroe attends the victim impact panel every second Saturday of the month at the Justice Center in Joplin. Monroe says that five years ago, 35, offenders attended the panel monthly. Last month 105 attended.



Monroe heads into one of his many classes in Webster Hall at Missouri Southern.

"It's unfortunate that he had a tragedy in his life that has caused him to be active," Kanyo said. "I have a great deal of admiration for him."

The organization provides support groups for families and works to enact laws and provided education and awareness about drunk driving. He is an active member in the Jasper-Newton County



Doug Monroe, shown with his wife Amy and children Matt, Ashley, Alyssa, and Adam.

Chapter and served as a local chapter president for three years. He is currently the state chairperson and certified victim advocate, and is the spokesperson for MADD Missouri. Monroe was recently appointed the governor's commission on DWI and drunk driving.

As part of this position, Monroe recommends what the governor should support in the next legislative session.

One of those laws hoping to gain support is the .08 alcohol blood level content.

"Two studies have been made which say that .08 blood content would save 500 lives annually," he said.

Monroe now has four children and is currently a freshman at Missouri Southern. His oldest son Matt is 13 years old and his daughters, Ashley and Alyssa are 9-year-old twins. He married his wife Amy in 1992. His youngest son, Adam, is 19 months old.

Monroe is enrolled at Southern as a full-time student and if things go the way he

**"People have to realize
that if they drink,
they have to be held
accountable."**

— Doug Monroe

plans, he will graduate in 2002. His major is political science with a minor in public administration.

In addition to attending college full time and being a husband and father, Monroe works the "graveyard" shift at Modine Manufacturing in Joplin.

"I sleep whenever I can squeeze it in," Monroe said.

For more information on MADD, the organization can be contacted at (800) 736-6233. ○

Get the

Dish



Diet Pills
Herbal Supplements
Fat-Free
Low-Carb Diets

on some of Joplin's most popular diet trends

**Photos and Story
by Sarah Lankford**

Dieting. It's something that has taken over America. It's something that has affected American's everyday lives, and several area businesses have plans to help those seeking to bulk, slim, or tone.

Surprisingly enough, there are a number of new techniques to overcome many weight and health fitness problems in this fast food eating, television watching society. Weight loss can be done by dieting, exercise, or even by taking herbs. Picking and choosing the best diet has now become easier for the year 2000.

One option for that new diet is Jenny Craig. Jenny Craig is designed for people who want to lose weight by dieting. By offering a two-step approach, exercise is only optional with this program.

"We are a food program," says Jenny Craig consultant Amber Rentfrow.

Clients of Jenny Craig come into the store once a week (located on 32nd street) for a consultation. During that consultation they get weighed.

After getting weighed the consultant gives a client the Jenny Craig menu. The client is allowed to change the menu for that week as long as they stick with the Jenny Craig low fat foods.

"They've got the best diet food I've seen," says Tracy Adams, a client of the program.

"You can pick and choose what your favorite foods are."

The menu offers a variety of foods such as mesquite chicken, stir-fry, and raspberry swirl cheesecake.

Kitty Munkers has been on the program for one year and says it has worked tremendously for her.

"It's really improved my health," she said. "I had leg problems, losing weight has cutback the pressure on my legs."

Nicole Tate, a sophomore at Missouri Southern, has been a Jenny Craig consultant for four years. Tate started the meal plan for herself 3 1/2 years ago and lost 35 pounds. Tate is not

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currently on a strict Jenny Craig diet but says she keeps the low fat food around.

The program is designed to help clients lose one and a half to two pounds per week.

Fit Matters, at Spalon Jaí Pho, is designed for toning, getting shaped, or building endurance.

"I don't promote weight loss," says personal trainer Yvonne Jacobs, a 28 year-old mother.

"My focal point is health wellness," she said.

Fit Matters is aimed at increasing energy and getting physically fit by doing a combination of exercises, weight lifting, and maintaining a healthy diet.

"If you come in, we are going to work hard and feel good afterwards," says Jacobs with a smile.

With Fit Matters, the first consultation consists of Jacobs and the client touching base with each other. A series of questions is asked about what the client wants out of the program. The personalized program is built on goals that are set by the client.

"With our bodies as humans, it's either use it or lose it," Jacobs says.

After the consultation the client and Jacobs work together on a custommade program. The client will come in once a week and work out at Spalon Jaí Pho, but is responsible for time spent eating right and working out during the week.

"I can't do it on my own, you have to put in your part too," says the personal trainer. "You will see immense results with my program."

Herbs seem to be the new trend for weight loss. Suzanne's Natural Foods is only one place in Joplin that offers this new approach to weight loss and weight management

Suzanne's has a wide range of herbs, sales

consultants, and even a doctor on staff.

Suzanne Schmidt opened her first business (a clothing store) directly out of high school when she was 19. She then opened Suzanne's in 1990 when she was only 29 years old. It was located in the living room of her house on Main Street. She moved into her current location (on 32nd and Connecticut) just a year and a half ago. Suzanne uses a number of her own products daily to stay healthy. Along with taking these herbs, she stays fit by working out in her gym upstairs with her personal trainer.

Kristen Banks, junior speech communications major, has worked at Suzanne's for two and a half years. With a variety to choose from, Suzanne's carries more than 100 weight management products. Banks says Collagone is a great herb to take when trying to obtain the weight composition desired.

"Anybody can do it," she says.

Collagone is completely natural and contains Aloe Vera juice.

This juice cools down the body, helping with stress and aids the body's digestive track.

Banks says she uses Diet Pep 2000. This natural herb is an appetite suppressant and fat burner.

"It also is an energy booster, it works great,"

says Banks.

New to Suzanne's is Dr. Terry Shirvani, N.D. from Pittsburg, Kan. Dr. Shirvani attended Pittsburg State University and earned a degree in pre med. He then moved to Oregon National College of Naturopathic medicine. Shirvani graduated in 1995 with a degree in Naturopathic Medicine and has been in practice since that time.

Naturopathic medicine is related to ancient and traditional medicine such as herbs.



Suzanne Schmidt, owner of Suzanne's Natural Foods

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"Pharmaceuticals have only been around for 50 or 60 years," Shirvani said.

Shirvani says that he deals with weight management not weight loss.

"I help people to sculpt their body," says the doctor.

He believes that all herbs have a purpose.

"What works for one person may not work for another."

Good Vibrations (located on west 20th) is another option when trying to accomplish

weight loss goals. Jane Case, co-owner of Good Vibrations, says that one of the best diets is cutting potatoes, pastas, sugars, and bread out of your diet.

"Your weight will drop rapidly," she says.

Good Vibrations has a Solo-firm active/passive exercise machine. This machine was invented 60 years ago in a Salon in Dallas, Texas. Good Vibrations has had two Solo-Firm machines since 1988. There is no average on the weight loss because it depends on how long you commit to the machine.

"It's a wonderful invention," says Janice Rector client of five years.

Because of Rector's occupation, the 45 year old UPS preloader must keep her muscles toned.

"It does wonders and I won't give it up," she says.

When on Solo-Firm, the body contracts and retracts, thus throwing the body off balance. The muscle fibers contract trying to get back into place. By doing this the muscles are strengthened and calories are burned.

"Most clients use the machine five days a week for 30 minutes each session," says Helen Kersey co-owner. Kersey attended Missouri Southern when it was a junior college in the 1960s

Thermo Chi is a supplement used for raising body



Jane Case, co-owner of Good Vibrations in Joplin, demonstrates how the Solo-firm exercise machine works muscles while the client stays in a comfortable position.

"It's a wonderful invention. It works wonders and I won't give it up."

— Janice Rector



Yvonne Jacobs, owner of Fit Matters at Spalon Jai Pho in Joplin, works out with some of the hand and free weights the firm offers.

temperature to speed up metabolism. It is not recommended for people with high blood pressure.

"We've had people lose 60-80 pounds with Thermo Chi," says Kersey.

Cordyceps is another supplement offered at Good Vibrations and has many natural benefits such as an increase in energy level.

"I love it," says Kersey. "I do have more energy when I use it."

The reproductive system is enhanced and blood flow to the heart and brain increases. Cordyceps also helps promote healthy lungs.

In 1993, China's women's track and field team broke numerous records in the Olympics. Many questions arose about possible drug use to enhance their performance. After drug tests showed no signs of drugs the coach did say the women were drinking a tonic made from Cordyceps.

Fat Grabbers attracts fat molecules inside the

body. After attracting the fat, it traps it before it is completely absorbed into the bloodstream. Dee Albright, a retired Good Vibrations consultant says Fat Grabbers helped with her cholesterol.

"It doesn't have any side effects," she says. Skinny Formula has been around for about 25 years.

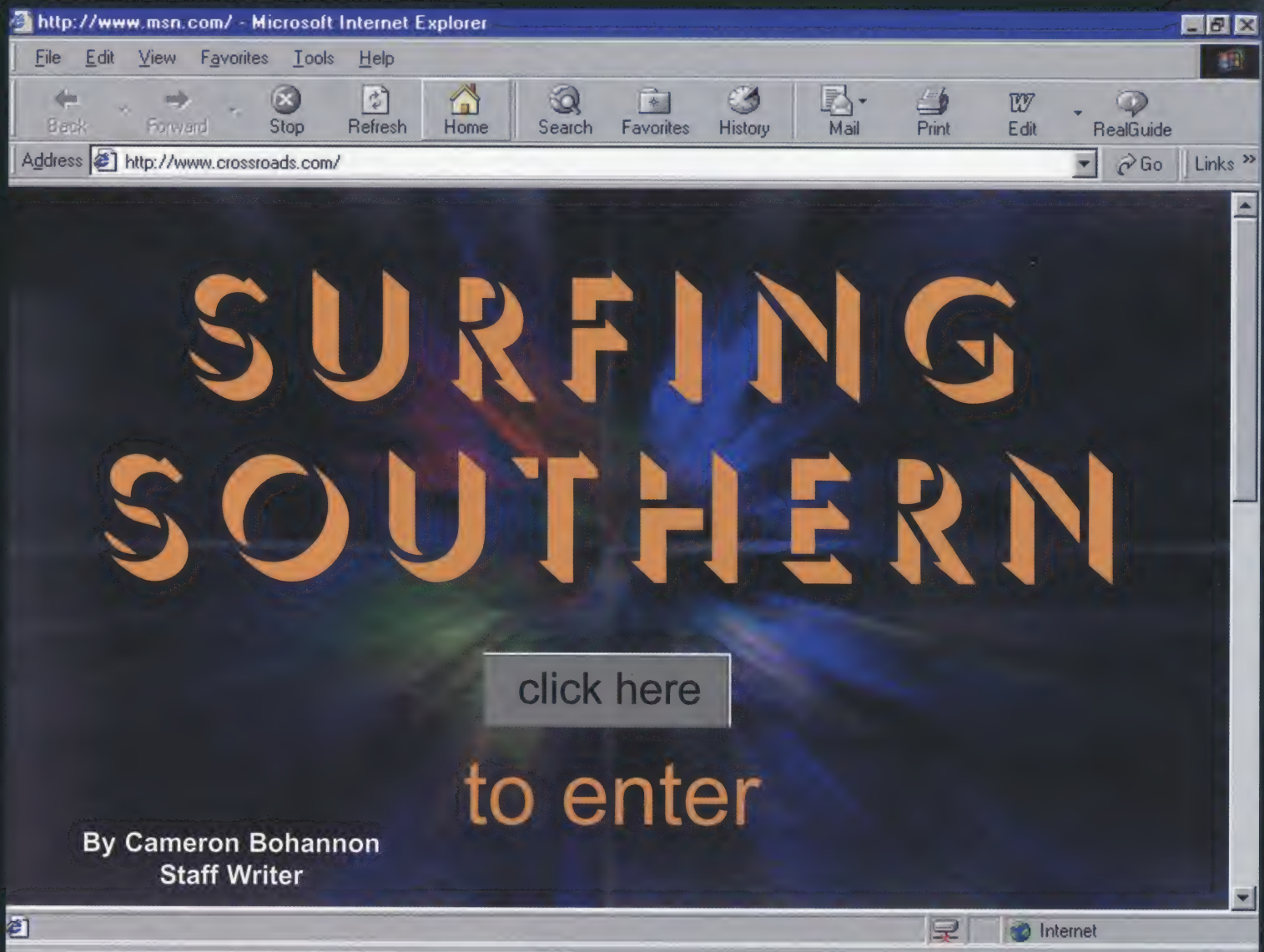
"It worked then and it works now," says Kersey. Taking two capsules 30-minutes before each meal will allow Skinny Formula and its 11 herbs to speed up your metabolism.

The most important and cheapest advice Good Vibrations says they have is water.

"None of us drink enough water," says Kersey. The body is 70 percent water and if we don't supply it, our bodies will hold the water in to survive. The water is used to flush out toxins.

All these diets can get complicated and confusing. It is important to remember to use caution when choosing an alternative dieting option, and always ask questions before taking any medication.

Information concerning good dieting habits is available at Kuhn Hall on campus. ○



We all have opinions. We all have beliefs. Sometimes our ideas are even worth sharing. The question is, how do we get those ideas out there?

Letters to the editor, books, commercials, banners, T-shirts, and bumper-stickers are all common ways of proclaiming ideas, but we're in a new era now.

According to Nielsen/NetRatings, in the month of June 1999, there was a total of 63.4 million total active Internet users in the U.S. The average user visited 12 Web sites and spent 7 hours, 38 minutes online a month.

Just out of curiosity, how much time do you think people spent last month looking at your T-shirt that tells everyone how great an athlete you are or studying your witty "My Kid Beat Up

Your Honor Student," bumper sticker?

An increasingly popular and relatively new way to communicate ideas is online. Not only can amateurs now send e-mail, browse, and chat on the Web, but they can also build and design personal homepages.

Ramus Luknka, senior international business major at Missouri Southern, created and maintains two Web sites. One is a personal homepage, located at <http://members.delphi.com/hakeem00>. It contains information about his hobbies, interests, family, and friends.

"On my personal site I introduce myself to people, to the world," said Lakunka.

Lakunka's site contains links to business news and world news, the Missouri Southern homepage, and soccer sources.



"I'm not good with computers. Everything that I needed was already there," said Lakunka, who didn't have to learn hyper-text mark-up language (html) or even purchase software to design his homepage.

A native of Zambia, Lukunka has devoted his other Web site, at <http://members.theglobe.com/raskunka/African.html>, to African economic success, which is also the topic of a book he is writing, titled *Barriers to*

African Economic Development.

The site contains links to information and statistics about the problems in Africa, such as starvation and lack of technology.

"We (Africa) are so far behind and, we are disorganized, because of all the politics, and the wars, and all the social unrest going on," he said. "Coming from Africa, I would like to see my continent develop."

Eden Aber, senior computational math major, also has a



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personal homepage, which she designed in a math class. Originally math-oriented, the site now also contains information about a brain-surgery Aber had in January 1998.

Aber said her homepage makes telling others about the surgery less difficult.

"It's wonderful," she said. "I can tell people about it and explain the surgery much easier.

Aber designed the page using a page-building wizard, but she also knew some html.

"I used a little html to add different text to it," she said.

Highlights of the site include math humor, information about the human brain, Winnie the Pooh, and Aber's Acura Legend.

To find out more about Aber and her personal interests and experiences, her homepage can be accessed at <http://www.geocities.com/FashionAvenue/Mall/2581/abere.html>.

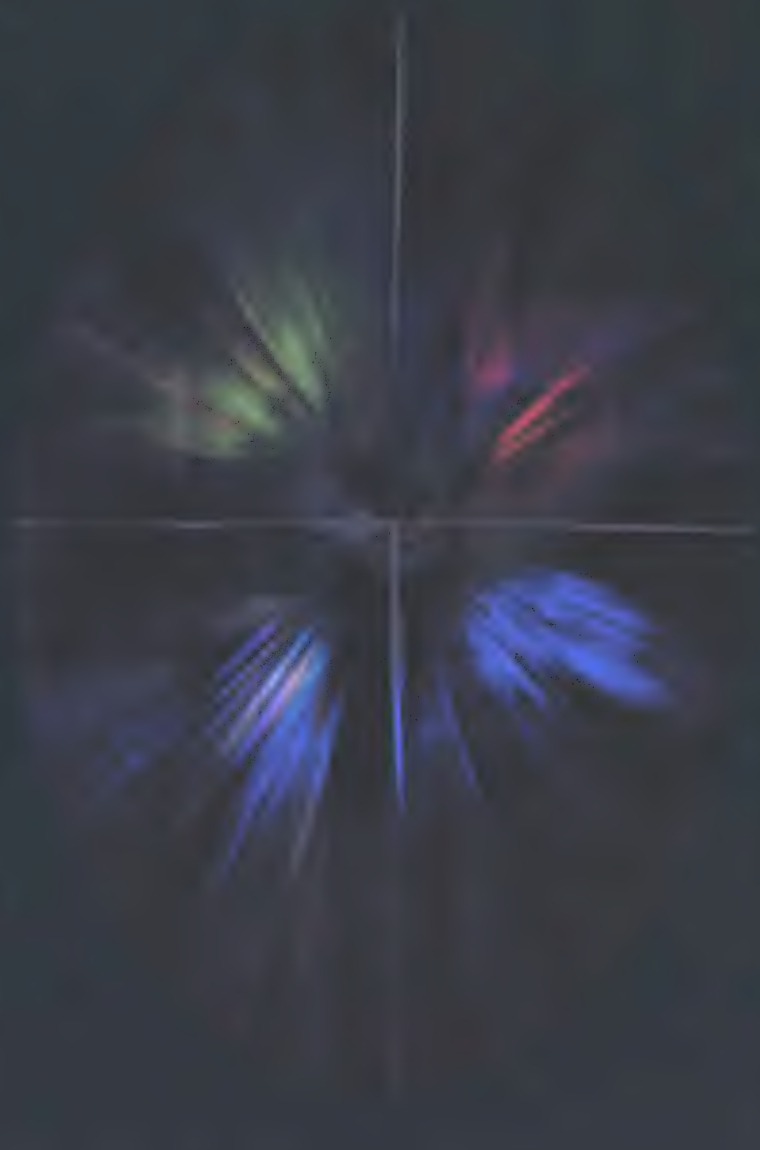
Ron Berry, junior business major, has a Web site devoted to muzzle loading.

"I thought antique weapons, you know, they're a tool that people have used for years," he said. "It's something we shouldn't forget about."

Berry built the site in 1997 using an html tutor. He uses it as a way to communicate with and assist other antique gun owners.

"I can help out with parts," Berry said. "Maybe somebody is restoring a weapon. They may e-mail me and ask me. I also have places that I can steer them toward finding parts for antique weapons, and I can actually make some things if I'm asked to."

Berry said that people from all over the world contact him concerning his homepage which has had 16,060 visitors since it was



Next>

created. It can be accessed at <http://www.clandjop.com/~fberry>.

Desiree Peterson, senior graphic design major, maintains a web page devoted to her band, Carbon Star. Located at <http://www.carbonstar.iuma.com>, the page is part of an engine called the Internet Underground Music Arcive. Any musician can build their own free page on IUMA, and some earn money from the site.

"We actually get paid to have this Web site, where with other Web sites you have to pay in," Peterson said.

Not only does being online earn cash for Carbon Star, but Peterson said it is good advertisement as well.

"We get hits everyday, lots of hits, which is really cool," she said.

Peterson did not have to learn html to build the site. In fact, she said constructing the site was relatively simple.

"The cool thing about this Web site is they have an artist uplink," she said. "A totally computer illiterate person could get a Web site put up in 30 minutes."

The Carbon Star homepage features biographies of the band, a lyrics page, sound files, and a page that lets fans know of upcoming shows.


"People are hearing about our band — people we don't even know are hearing about us," Peterson said.

What does all this mean to me, you may ask. It means that no matter what you believe, no matter your mission, or no matter what you want to sell or promote, it is now easier to reach more people than ever.

"You have a wide range of people with the Web," said John Huff, of Come Surf the Net, Joplin Web provider. "You're not dealing with Joplin anymore, you're dealing with the world." ○



Exit



Behind the

SEN

By Rhonda Clark
Contributing Writer

Eerie stillness envelopes the dimly lit backstage area. Lone figures dressed in black sift through stage scenery with last-minute checks. A lone cry echoes through Taylor auditorium, "The house is open." Within seconds, music flows from the speakers and the sounds of an anxious audience filter to the recesses of the stage.

Slowly the dusky backstage setting comes to life with black-clad occupants as they don headsets, position themselves at the computerized light board, or stand ready for set changes. This is the realm of the behind-the-scenes crews for Missouri Southern Theatre productions.

As the lights go up on stage, the backstage lights up as well. Costumed actors file on and off stage in an effortless rhythm. During scene changes, grips dart across the blackened stage placing and removing scenery and props. Sam Claussen, associate

professor of theatre and technical director, said grips avoid accidental run-ins during performances.

"With enough practice and enough rehearsal, that's the way it works," he said.

Working together through teamwork makes the productions come together through mutual respect.

"In the theatre, people learn a lot of things about organization, about promptness, about responsibility, personal responsibility, and I think all of our people have that," Claussen said. "That's some of the stuff that I teach and instill in people, and if one person fails in any of those things, then the well-oiled machine goes away."

Getting a production to its polished perfection is no small feat. Plays are selected at least a year in advance, and a production schedule begins 20 weeks before opening night.



"We have a basic standard timeline we go by with any production here, and the director and stage manager work in collaboration to make sure these dates are set with the designers," said Tanya Brown, junior theatre major.

A stage manager for four Southern productions, Brown's largest show was the recent presentation of *Carousel*. The musical included a cast of 27 and a stage crew of 15. Her biggest challenge lay in organizing everything for readiness.

"I do it by keeping track of everything that needs to be done that day, making sure

that we rehearse the units we're supposed to rehearse that day, making sure the right people are there," Brown said.

A play requires long-term commitment. With *Carousel*, rehearsals began in November with one to two per day and weekends off. As a production approaches showtime, those free weekends become a faded memory. Brown said her greatest stressor is managing without an assistant.

"As a stage manager, it requires a lot of time," she said. "You're usually here before the actors get here and you usually leave as the last actor is leaving."

**Photos by
Noppadol
Paothong
& Dale
Benfield, Jr.**

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Left: Rachel Stillwell, senior management major, hangs curtains for the backdrop of the *Carousel* performance.

Right: Sam Claussen, associate professor of theatre, helps students design the set for *Woolfie*, the spring children's play.



Nathan Ball, senior theatre major, said everyone involved tries to keep the environment light. He said Claussen doesn't get too upset about anything.

"I've learned a lot from Sam — I guess emotion management, the whole stress and being able to play things off that really aren't that important when you get down and look at it," Ball said.

A basketball goal decorates a stage bracket where it gets a work out to relieve the staff's tensions, or boredom when waiting for props to arrive.

"We have the basketball goal, and a lot of times we'll play games of hide and seek in the theatre which really gets interesting when you have freshmen playing, because some of those guys who have been around for several years know all the hiding spots and we can hide out for quite a while," Ball said.

For some students of Theatre Appreciation, a class trip 50 feet above the stage to the metal grid provided an uneasy thrill when looking down to the platform below. Ball said this grid serves another purpose in the form of grid races.

"We run from one end of the grid to the other as fast as we possibly can — that's always a good one," he said.

Brown said keeping people on track helps them get through the difficult times.

"Theatre is a team effort project — you can't do

anything in theatre by yourself," she said.

"If you don't get your job done then no one else can move on with their's."

Even with all the rehearsals, careful planning, and coordination of efforts, a live production lends itself to occurrences beyond the staff's control. In October, during a performance of *Colorado Catechism*, the fire alarm in the Black Box Theatre didn't sound off, but the control panel emitted a fault signal.

"It was loud enough that everybody in the auditorium could hear it, and those of us techies who were standing around scattered like flies and went several different directions to try and solve the problem," Ball said.

With computerized light and sound boards, he said technicians need to be quick thinkers and fix problems as they arise. Adding the human element to a production creates additional challenges for backstage staff. In a sewer scene from 1998's *Guys and Dolls*, an actor had to descend a 20-foot ladder.

"We had one actor who was just deathly afraid of heights," Claussen said. "They (grips) had to go out, climb the ladder behind the curtain, and stay up there for like 15 minutes while a song played out on stage."

The actor was a "trouper," came down, sang his song, and played his part. Claussen described another tense moment when an actor was hit with a sword



Trent Mosley, left, Brandon Moore, and Kenny Horning construct the walls for the bar set of the *Carousel* production.

during a fight scene in *Romeo and Juliet*.

"Luckily, he was the one who was going to die, so he crashed to the floor, the blood's dripping out of his nose, and he lays there," Claussen said.

The actor was conscious but in pain from a broken nose. As the lights went down, the grips came out for the scene change and carried the actor off.

Though the Southern theatre has no safety violations, Claussen said anything can happen.

A tour of the backstage area reveals a wall with a fly system, a webbed conglomeration of ropes and iron weights, called pips, used to secure large scenery pieces. Like *Carousel*, *Guys and Dolls* was a Broadway set deliv-

ered to Southern. The theatre department rents these sets about every two years to expose students to loading in, setting up, and striking professionally-built sets.

An incident during the striking of the *Guys and Dolls* set provided the show with a pet name. The fly system balances the weight of scenery pieces on stage, but in haste, the crew didn't hook the scenery piece to a cable winch.

"What happened was all of a sudden, about 50 feet above the stage, there was about 400 pounds of cast iron pigs, that once their counter balance is off, they've no place to go but down," Claussen said.

Three students grabbed the rope attempting to stop the inevitable and received third-

degree burns. A new 2-by-8 oak board replaced the broken one and has the black marker inscription, "Flies and Balls, Crash of 1998."

Southern Theatre audiences view "smooth as glass" performances that come from hard work and dedicated staff.

Claussen said the backstage staff fulfills their duties even when sick, and as the old adage goes, the show must go on.

"We're very close because all of us are here it seems like all the time, so we know each other very well," Ball said. "And, sometimes you'll have conflicts between people, but everybody is really good about letting those conflicts go when it comes time for the production to go on stage." ○

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Lights, Camera, Action!

Story & Photos
by
Erin Sellers
Managing Editor

Lights, camera, action, well almost. Missouri Southern is currently home to several aspiring young filmmakers. Seth Wolfshorndl, junior art education major and Dan Reeve, junior computer information science major, along with Michael Fletcher, an alumni to Southern who graduated last May with a degree in biology, are the masterminds behind *Tommy and Dutch*. Although this title doesn't mean anything to 99 percent of the campus population, it is the title to the guys' full-length screenplay starring various campus dwelling members, i.e. students.

The premise of the movie is a comical depiction of a Fayetteville mob boss and his two toadies, Tommy and Dutch.

"Dan and I really like Mafia stuff. We got the idea for the title roles from the video game *Sam and Max*," Wolfshorndl said. "Sam (a dog) is a laid back, easy going big guy, which fits Dusty (Roberts, sophomore art major who plays "Dutch"). And Max is just the opposite. We figured that Dan could definitely play the hyperactive, jumpy character."

"Tommy and Dutch isn't Wolfshorndl's first cinematic endeavor.



(from left to right) Michael Fletcher, Seth Wolfshorndl, and Dan Reeve, three Southern students, are the masterminds behind the movie *Tommy & Dutch*.

He, Roberts and their friends made a previous full-length film while still in high school, *Mr. Vision I and II*.

"Basically it started out as a project for our drama class," he said. "I showed it to everybody here (Southern) and it got us thinking that we should try something with the people here."

"Seth and I talked about it after the showing of *Mr. Vision*", Reeve said. "I had a story I wrote back in high school that I thought we might be able to use. We warped it, changed it and ended up having a screen play that was nothing like my original story, but it was a starting point."

After a few short months the guys completed the screenplay.

"Fletch, Dan and I work very well together when we write stuff," Wolfshorndl said. "We're all three creative but we also gel pretty well."

Now they were ready to begin casting and filming.

"We made up characters that would fit the people we know," Wolfshorndl said.

**"Fletch, Dan and I work very well together
when we write stuff. We're all three creative
but we also gel pretty well."**

— Seth Wolfshorndl

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Wolfshorndl, Reeve and Fletcher, along with the cast, filmed on location scenes everywhere from Branson to a local laundromat.

But before filming wrapped up disaster struck and production halted.

"It fell apart because it's impossible for full-time college kids to set aside enough time to film a full length movie," Wolfshorndl said. "The original plan was to have the premier in Matthews Hall Auditorium, but unless we wanted to take five years to finish it, it was not to be."

The guys found it impossible to get the entire cast and crew schedules to match up enough to shoot scenes.

"It's hard to get people to show up," Fletcher said. "When we wrote it we tried to include so many people, we needed to make scenes with not a lot of people."

"Plus to add to the difficulty of production one of the three directors went off and got married."

(Wolfshorndl wed Southern nursing student Laura Wilhelm last spring.)

"I was sad after I finally realized the project was dead," Reeve said.

"It took me longer to realize that than him," Fletcher said.

Although *"Tommy and Dutch"* will never be complete

in its intended form, Wolfshorndl, Reeve and Fletcher have plans for the footage they do have.

"We're trying to make a mock documentary about the failing of *Tommy and Dutch*," Wolfshorndl said.

"It's basically going to be what not to do," Fletcher said.

The documentary will incorporate the recorded footage along with interviews of the cast and crew.

"We're encouraging embellishment of any sort," Fletch said. "It's suppose to be funny. We're actually writing some more stuff for it."

The documentary is a kind of closure to the *"Tommy and Dutch"* project for its three directors.

"It will be nice to finally get it done after a year," Reeve said.

Although their attempt to make a feature length film fell short of its intended ending, don't think these filmmakers are through with the celluloid.

"The next project is to continue with Seth's *Mr. Vision* characters and have 20 to 30 minute episodes," Reeve said.

"We are trying to do something a little more manageable," Wolfshorndl said. ○



Seth Wolfshorndl, one of the film's three directors, composes a shot for his movie, *Tommy & Dutch*. Wolfshorndl was the director in charge of filming.

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LIVE

AND ON STAGE

**In
your own
Backyard**

*By Cameron Bohannon
Staff Writer*

*Photos by
Sarah Lankford*

When one thinks of cities with widely recognized music scenes, towns like Austin, Detroit, New Orleans, and Seattle come to mind. Each containing its own unique flavor, these towns have produced some of the finest bands and musicians in the business.

Joplin, on the other hand, is not a place people usually think of as a hotbed of musical activity; however, a growing number of local businesses and gathering places are featuring some of the four state's finest live musicians.

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Among the venues are BTB skatepark, Woody's Wood Fire Pizza, the Kitchen Pass, the Powerhouse, and a handful of coffee houses, to name a few. They offer music from punk rock and hardcore to contemporary Christian and acoustic.

Concerts at BTB skate park generally feature local rock, punk, and metal bands, and it usually costs a few dollars to get in. Typical crowd members are in their teens and early twenties.

"It's cool," said owner Scott Walters. "It gives the kids something to do."

While Walters reports having a few ugly incidents with the local police department due to noise, he says it's just a problem every business with live music faces.

Nevertheless, Walters is not defeated. He believes that community interest is strong, and plans to continue having concerts.

"It's really cool because you can skate and listen to rockin' music at the same time," Jason Wakefield, freshman undecided major, said about concerts at the skate park.

For those 21 and older, the ByPass, the bar at the Kitchen Pass, offers concerts weekly. Blues and blues-rock are most commonly played there, although they also feature modern rock and acoustic acts. Not only local bands play there, but groups from bigger cities such as Chicago and Dallas often play as well. Mike Pawlus of the Kitchen Pass said they provide live music because it's something they've always done, and the customers and staff alike enjoy the shows.

The Kitchen Pass also plays host to the annual Kitchen Pass Music Festival.

Modern



Tim Metcalf, drummer for Pinewood Derby, performs at Woody's Wood Fire Pizza.

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rock, blues, and reggae, and acoustic acts from around the country as well as the four-state area play at the event, which is scheduled to take place in September.

The Powerhouse, a Christian coffee house in Carthage, provides fans with a variety of Christian and positively-geared music. Bands such as P.O.D. and All Star United have played there, as well as many hometown musicians. The Powerhouse plays host to an annual Battle of the Bands every fall. Many local bands compete in weekly

heats and the winners advance to finals. The victors of the final competition are awarded prizes which include cash and time in a recording studio.

"I love the Battle of the Bands," said Beth Marienthal, freshman undecided major. "I thought having it for four weeks in a row was rad."

Another spot to catch live music is Woody's Wood Fire Pizza. Woody's features performers about once a week, ranging from blues-rock bands to acoustic performances of soloists such as

Brian Webster, of the locally-known rock band The Websters.

"We like to have them (concerts) not only for the customers to enjoy, but to help the bands get some recognition as well," said Steve Ritter, co-owner of Woody's.

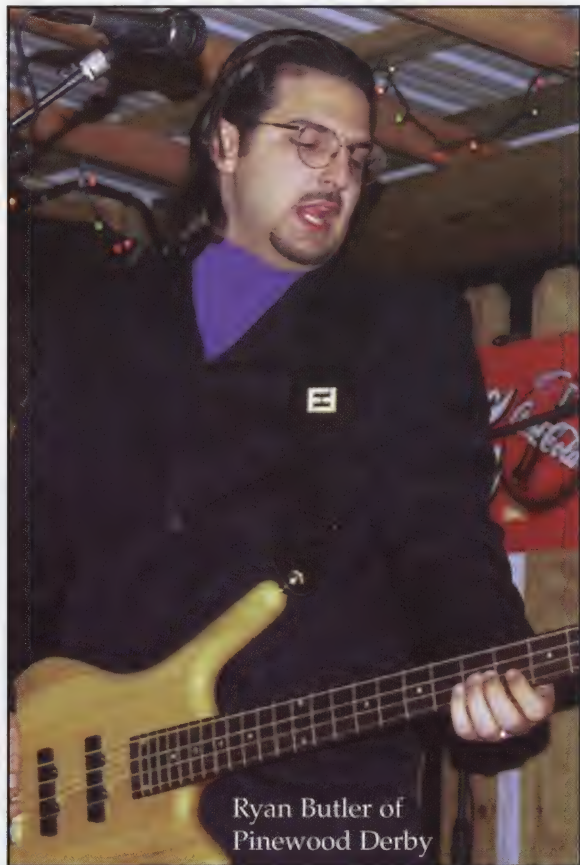
Business owners are not the only people interested in providing entertainment for the masses, however. Individuals with no business interest also sponsor concerts. Andrew McCormick, local musician, has organized several concerts, including the Joplin Summer Music Explosion in 1998. McCormick said his reasons for constructing such events were to provide a place for local bands to play for a large audience, and to try to spark greater community participation in the Joplin music scene.

He has since become discouraged, though, due to what he perceives as lack of public enthusiasm.

The people that actually do show up never really seem to be into the music," he said.

That's too bad, considering all the willing business owners and musicians interested in entertaining.

With the growing number of venues and bands alike, a wide range of interested fans is all that is needed for Joplin's music scene to flourish. There are enough different acts in the area that nearly any music fan can find a band or musician to support. ○



Ryan Butler of
Pinewood Derby

A Rad Look Back at the 1980s

By Ginny Andrews & Erin Sellers

Okay—everyone who lived through the 1980s probably has at least some limited view of cinema through the Brat Pack era.

Surely there isn't a college student alive who hasn't seen at least a few of the 80s standards like *Top Gun*, *Dirty Dancing*, *The Breakfast Club*, *St. Elmo's Fire*, or *Pretty in Pink*. There are also the sequel series like Eddie Murphy's *Beverly Hills Cop*, and the cult classic *Revenge of the Nerds* series, not to mention the all-too-numerous *Back To The Future* movies.

So maybe everyone knows "Maverick" and "Goose" or "Baby/Francis", but what about "Lane Myer"? How about "Diane Court"? They are only two of the characters fea-

tured in the movies that make up my modest little list of 80s movies you may not have seen, but would be a good 49-cent investments the next time you're browsing through the aisles at your favorite movie store.

Due solely to personal bias the first two movies on the list are feature films starring my favorite, John Cusack. He won my favor in a little film called *Say Anything* directed by Cameron Crowe (of *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* fame). As the



Photos by Erin Sellers

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quirky, yet lovable Lloyd Dobbler, Cusack is obsessed with the typical Miss Perfect, Diane Court (Ione Skye). The road the two take toward finding true love is sweet, funny, and a little sad, with room for Cusack's sister Joan to play a mean guitar, and four losers to rap at a gas station.

Lane Meyer (Cusack), along with his pal (Curtis Armstrong a.k.a. Booger of *Nerds* fame), are drop-dead funny in the 1985 film *Better Off Dead* about...well, you'll have to decide that for yourselves. WARNING: Do not watch this movie if you really need a plotline for movie enjoyment. DO watch this movie if you like those type of movies you can watch over and over to find all the hidden funny parts. It is worth its plotlessness if only for the paper-boy and Asian guys who pop up throughout the movie...By

the way, most who have seen it probably agree they got their "TWO DOLLARS'" worth.

Shag: The Movie (a 1989 film whose name denotes a popular dance style of the early 1960s) features a cast of screen favorites including Bridget Fonda, Pheobe Cates, Scott Coffey, and Annabeth Gish. The movie is set in the early 60s and revolves around four southern belles who take their soon-to-be-married friend (Cates) on a wild trip to Myrtle Beach after promising a relaxing weekend to Ft.



Sumpter. Instead of touring colonial homes the girls find more than they bargained for when love and romance meet common sense.

Taking you back to the youthful days of cops and robbers, Gary Cooper and Lilli Palmer star in the 1984 spy movie *Cloak and Dagger*. This is a good, hilarious family movie that anyone can enjoy. Many of those I consider movie experts give this pick grand accolades as a must see.

Set in the resort town of Mystic, Connecticut, 1988's *Mystic Pizza* features three young women working at a pizza joint and coming of age. A big bright red haired, flirtatious Julia Roberts leads a cast of fun actors and





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actresses in the midst of beautiful New England scenery. For some good 80s entertainment that will drag you into a storyline, sink your teeth into this one.

Finally, for all you couples out there who have a hard time renting a movie because she says, "I want more than fights and car/plane/train/motorcycle crashes," and he says, "I've got to be able to stay awake through it," there is an eighties answer. 1989's *Shining Through* with Melanie Griffith and Michael Douglas is set in World War II, and offers enough espionage and suspense for the guys and enough storyline for the ladies. Set primarily in 1930s Germany, this flick will be a long-time favorite.

Well, there you have it. That's the list. I hope you're encouraged to take out two quarters, dust off an oldie, take it home and enjoy.

BOGAUS

The eighties were a decade of big hair, big debt, and big movies. This was the decade where bands began to view cinema as a way to showcase their talent. Whether it be flashes in the pan such as Wang Chung or established rockers like Eric Clapton, movies became more and more dominated with hit songs. While John Williams' *Star Wars* scores might be filled with more musical merit I think that everyone would agree that it is more often the case that a person will be singing a Kenny



Loggins song as opposed to the Jedi theme.

Although the 80s did have more than its share of hit movie soundtracks, many movies of the time were also filled with the musical equivalent of pickled squid. I have decided that it is my job as a socially conscious citizen to help the average Joe determine which movies are best for his or her listening pleasure. So I have compiled a list of the top ten 80s movie soundtracks. I know, I know ten is a little limiting, I

We mean Kenny Loggins alone had ten 80s movies for which he might still be standing in front of phones everywhere with puzzled looks on our faces if it were not for Ray Parker Jr's hit title song for this movie.

composed songs, but due to space restraints I've narrowed it down to 10 bodacious choices. 10. *Who's That Girl* (Warner Bros.)- Nothing screams 80s materialism like the "Material Girl." This pop soundtrack is dominated by Madonna, but also includes songs by Club Nouveau and Scritti Politti. And hey, just because a movie is a flop doesn't mean the soundtrack must follow that same path. Although, one would think that Madonna would learn that her millions were made in the recording studio, not the sound stage.

9. *Ghostbusters* (Arista)-After this movie came out everyone knew "who to call." We might still be standing in front of phones everywhere with puzzled looks on our faces if it were not for Ray Parker Jr's hit title song for this movie. But bands like Air Supply and the Thompson Twins secure this soundtrack's place on the top ten list.

8. *The Breakfast Club* (PGD/A&M)-Slackers everywhere related to this movie about Saturday detention and it brought relatively unknown actors into cinema to form what came

Tubular





Radical

to be known as the Brat Pack. Could this have happened without Simple Minds and Wang Chung? Maybe, but these bands sure helped the cause. After all who wouldn't want a soundtrack with a song titled "I'm the Dude."

7. *Top Gun* (Sony/Columbia)-Jet engines, sweaty male bodies and Kenny Loggins, I know that spells hit to me. Although I know I'd rather have a Tom Cruise, this soundtrack makes an adequate substitution. This sound track has everything, fast songs, love songs, and even those late night drunken karaoke songs.

6. *Lost Boys* (Arista)-Now I know that Cory Haim and Corey Feldman are the butt of many a bad 80s movie joke, but this movie as well as the soundtrack

is a true cult favorite. It is unlike most of the cotton-candy soundtracks on this list, containing deeper songs like a remake of the Doors' "People are Strange" (although I think that song can be sung of most people in the 80s).

5. *Back to the Future* (MCA)-Though now reduced to playing at state fairs across the country, Huey Lewis and the News were at one time tops on the Billboard chart. But before they sunk to the ranks of corn dogs and funnel cakes, Huey and the gang managed to capture some kickin' 80s tunes on this soundtrack. And we can't forget the Marty McFly performance of "Johnny Be Good," also on the album.

4. *Dirty Dancing* (BMG/RCA)-Not as controversial as the movie, this soundtrack contains all the elements needed to add a

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little romance to anyone's evening. I mean come on, nothing says lovin' like a Patrick Swayze serenade. And for all the girls with strong opinions the Blow Monkeys' "You Don't Own Me" serves as a nice anthem.

3. *Rocky* [the Rocky story](BMG)-Testosterone phobes beware. This soundtrack is sure to make any guy feel like he can beat up a 6'4" Russian or Kick Mr. T's butt. But although the songs are guaranteed to get the blood pumping and the eyes all feline-like, guys, don't lay off the creatine just yet.

2. *Footloose* (Columbia)-A tale of teenage rebellion against their stuffy parent's social regulations, *Footloose* ignited teenage spirits everywhere. With 80s movie tune classics like the title track (recorded by none other than my fave Kenny Loggins) Bonnie Tyler's "Holding out for a Hero," and Denise Williams' pop hit "Let's Hear it for the Boy," this soundtrack is one great song after another. Each is sure to spark to mind a memory from that bygone decade.

1. *Urban Cowboy* (Columbia)-An all star line-up makes this album worthy of the top spot. From Charlie Daniels' "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" to Mickey Gilley's "Orange Blossom Festival," the likes of Bonnie Raitt, Bob Seger, and the Eagles, the soundtrack more than makes up for the atrocity which is John Travolta in skin tight wranglers.

Now that I've concluded my top ten pick I hope that everyone will be able to reminisce and enjoy the great songs of the past without having to endure the travesty of grabbing the wrong Molly Ringwald movie soundtrack. Although the 80s are responsible for the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the thing that is arguably the greatest asset of the 80s is its ability to produce one killer movie and soundtrack after another: a feat we may never again see met. ○

Totally



Around Campus

by Chris Roberts

Life on the campus of Missouri Southern State College can often times become hectic, to say the least. Sometimes schedules can be so packed with stuff to do that students will be virtually in a daze, which can lead to an onslaught of embarrassing moments should the student not beware. *Crossroads* caught them off the street and asked them to share their various accounts of their most embarrassing moments on campus, and some of their most outlandish excuses for skipping class.



"I TOLD A TEACHER ONCE THAT I HAD MISSED CLASS BECAUSE MY DOG HAD DROWNED IN MY POOL AND HE ACTUALLY BELIEVED ME."

MIKE MILLER
JUNIOR BIOLOGY MAJOR



DANIELLE DUDLEY
FRESHMAN SPANISH MAJOR

Most embarrassing moment:

"ONE TIME IN SPANISH CLASS A GUY IN MY CLASS ASKED TO BORROW A DOLLAR, AND SO I REACHED INTO MY POCKET AND PULLED OUT WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A DOLLAR, AND THEN HANDED IT TO HIM. IT WASN'T A DOLLAR. IT WAS A RECEIPT FOR FEMININE PRODUCTS."

...Your first-hand accounts of student life at Southern...



SHIELA McWILLIAMS
FRESHMAN UNDECIDED MAJOR

Craziest excuse:

"ONE TIME I WALKED INTO CLASS LATE AND WHEN MY TEACHER ASKED WHY I WAS LATE I JUST TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS HAVING AN AWESOME GAME OF PINBALL. HE JUST SHRUGGED AND SAID 'OK.'"



DONYA ROSS
SOPHOMORE UNDECIDED MAJOR

Craziest excuse:

"I TOLD A TEACHER ONCE THAT I MISSED A CLASS BECAUSE I HAD GONE SHOPPING WITH MY MOM. HE DIDN'T LIKE THAT TOO MUCH."

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

By Andre L. Smith
Contributing Writer



Emotions run high in a sporting contest. That is no secret. However, things can get out of hand at times when athletes do not control their emotions on the battlefield, or track, or court, whatever the case may be. This year in the National Football League alone, there have been instances when unsportsmanlike conduct has gone far beyond a 15-yard penalty into an entire realm of fines and suspensions.

During the 1999-2000 football season, Cleveland Browns 6-foot-7, 350 plus-pound offensive tackle Orlando Brown was hit in the eye with a flag containing small pellets after committing an infraction.

The odds of a flag speeding through the 6 x 8 inch opening of a football player's facemask are next to none. However, the blow Brown took would eventually damage his eyesight. Although the referee was extremely apologetic, Brown took it upon himself to return to the field and use his large frame to send the referee crashing to the ground with a push.

While some athletes say that "talking smack" is part of every sport, others believe that it is

considered treating the game and themselves with no respect.

An altercation involving St. Louis Rams and Tampa Bay Buccaneers after the Rams stopped the Bucs from scoring on its last drive of the NFC championship game, sparked emotions with offensive lineman Frank Middleton that he says will last well into next season.

Seconds after securing the victory, a few Rams players "were talking smack" according to Middleton.

"For some reason they think they can walk around and try to talk to people any way they want to," he told Crossroads. "It's one of those situations where if we were to ever meet each other again, I almost guarantee that three or four Rams won't finish the game. Now you can put the Rams on our list, it's like a war now."

Whether it be a push, shove, punch, kick, or just words from one's mouth, acts like these are common occurrences in the world of sports—junior high, high school, college, and even pee-wee.

At the Great Lakes Regional Cross Country Championships at Missouri Southern on Saturday, November 6, freshman Petri Kykyri, a student from Finland, had an unsportsmanslike experience.

Kykyri had been up front for some of the race, running along attempting to secure one of the qualifying positions to attend the NCAA national meet.

Vladimir Golias, a Russian runner at Central Missouri State University, and Kykyri had been close, especially around the two-mile stretch of the six-mile race. In an attempt to move into position in front Golias, Kykyri gave him "a little shove."

"I gave him a little shove because I wanted to move ahead," Kykyri said. "It was getting a little rough. That's cross country. That's life."

As Kykyri moved ahead of Golias, the CMSU runner slugged Kykyri in the back of the head causing him to eventually drop out of the race.

"I tried too hard," Kykyri said. "I started too fast, maybe that was some of it. That was the consequence." Golias, who finished among the top of the large



Petri Kykyri, Missouri Southern cross country athlete, leads all runners at a fall 1999 race.

File Photo

Sophomore Lady Lion center Katie Gariss fends off a Central Missouri State defender during the 1999-2000 season.

File Photo



pack, was disqualified from the race, therefore, ruining his chances of going to the national meet.

Southern head cross country coach Tom Rutledge said there is no area for foul play and it is completely uncalled for.

"It's not needed," Rutledge commented with passion. "Anyone that every did that on one of my teams would be benched, period. You wouldn't have to wait for the NCAA."

During a seventh-grade basketball matchup, Missouri Southern Lady Lion basketball player Katie Gariss' skills got her a knuckle sandwich in the face.

"It was the end of the game, we were ahead, and they were trying to score," Gariss said. "The girl missed a shot and I covered the ball when I got the rebound."

Players swatted at the ball, but Gariss' strength would not allow them to jar the ball loose.

One girl's emotions got the best of her and she nailed Gariss in the grill.

"A similar situation happened in eighth grade," Gariss said. "That time I was punched in the back."

Some of these things can be controlled by officials but some of it cannot. While there are many things that go on in the visibility of the crowd and refs, several acts go unnoticed.

After halftime of a high school football game, freshman Mark Naylor said he did something he

"can't believe I did."

His team was ahead 21-10 and on the second-half kickoff, Naylor wanted to

get the ball back for his squad.

Thinking fast, Naylor, who was in on the tackle, committed the unthinkable.

"I just grabbed ahold of his [you know what], turned, and pulled," he said. "That's what he gets for not wearing proper protection. The ref didn't notice it, but I did feel bad."

Naylor said he has heard of and seen much worse incidents and admitted he would never commit another such act.

"It was something that just happened at the moment," he said. "I'm a guy and I know how it would feel. So, I would never do it again."○

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